fulfilling our responsiblility. We want to release the Money and we want things to happen.

SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: I am happy that the Minister has agreed that after IT, we are giving the second important priority to tourism. I would like to know whether the Finance Ministry and the Planning Commission have increased the allocation for tourism or not. अब तो देश बच नहीं सकता। अब तो युग है बेचने का। चार साल में सारा कुछ बेच देंगे। तब तो युग बचेगा दिखाने को तो उस दिखाने के युग के लिए आप अब क्या कुछ तैयारी करेंगे ?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, this does not purport to the main question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes; you are right. Now, we will take up the next question. Question No. 504.

Recovery suit against Essar Power Ltd.

*504. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recovery suit file by Andhra Bank against Essar Power Ltd; is pending with the Debt Recovery Tribunal at Mumbai;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the amount sanctioned as loan to the company;

(c) the steps taken by Andhra Bank for recovery of loan before filing the suit; and

(d) the reaction of Essar Power Ltd., thereto?

THE MINISTR OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Andhra Bank has filed a recovery application before the Debt Recovery Tribunal (DRT), Mumbai on 31st August, 1999 for the recovery of outstanding dues of Essar Power Limited. The application is pending before DRT, Mumbai. The application has been filed for recovery of balance outstanding dues amounting to Rs 17.70 crore against the loan of Rs 50 crore sanctioned to the company in 1994.

(c) and (d) Andhra Bank has reported that the bank has been constantly pursuing with the company to settle all dues, after the company defaulted on repayments. The company, however, made only part payments. The bank has further reported that the company has made another part payment of Rs 6.00 crore after filing of the recovery application before DRT.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI: It appears from the reply that the bank has been constantly pursuing with the Company to settle the issue. It also appears from the reply that the Company had earlier made part payment. After filing a suit, the Company has made payment to the tune of Rs. 6 crores. Now, in view of the good gesture shown by the Company, the Bank should settle the issue at the earliest. I want to know whether the Bank is ready to settle the issue or not.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: The settlement outside the court does not come within the DRT. It is the total discretion of the bank and the concern. The Government does not matter in this matter. If both of them want to settle, we don't object to it. It is their right. We cannot even give direction.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI: I agree that it is their right. I am also right that you can advice them. My second supplementary is this. There is a sound guarantor. If the settlement fails, instead of suing the company, why doesn't the bank sue the sound guarantor?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am absolutely clear in my mind that this is an arrangement between the bank and the client of the bank. This arrangement has run foul of the understanding which was reached and the bank decided to sue the company in the Debt Recovery Tribunal. The matter is pending in the Debt Recovery Tribunal, which is a judicial body. If the company wants to have any kind of settlement, it has to approach the bank. The Ministry, I would like to hasten to add, has absolutely no wish, no intention, to interfere in such matters. This has been the tradition in the Ministry of Finance and I wish to continue with that tradition.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Anantray Devshanker Dave. (*Interruptions*)... Your two supplementaries are over.

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे : सभापति महोदय, 11 करोड़ रुपये की रिक्वरी के लिए जो डेट रिक्वरी ट्रिब्यूनल में गये हैं, वह ठीक है। लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि प्रायर्टी सेक्टर की फेसिलिटीज के लिए कुछ कंपनियां काम कर रही हैं और आन्ध्रा बैंक का पैसा उन पर बकाया है। क्या उसकी रिक्वरी करने के लिए कोई एप्लीकेशन दिया गया है और कितनी कंपनीज़ के खिलाफ आन्ध्रा बैंक ने एप्लीकेशन दी है ?

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we don't have it that way because the question relates to Essar Power Ltd. only.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, this supplementary does not arise out of this. Mr. Prem Chand Gupta. Your supplementary should be specific on the subject.

SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, my question has already been raised by the hon. Member. So, I am not raising.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is all right. Shri Santosh Bagrodia. I hope it is not a general question. It should be specific.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I find from the record that the Andhra Bank's gross NPA in 1998-99 was Rs. 450 crores, whereas the net NPA was Rs. 190 crores. I would like to know whether this particular amount of Rs. 17 crores was also part of the gross NPA or the net NPA. I don't know what is this net NPA. After filing the case with the DRT, the company has actually paid Rs. 6 crores. I fully agree that it is an autonomous body. The Bank should have full powers to do it. I am not objecting to it. Since there is a question, when you have some policy guidelines, what I would like to know is this. This is not such a large amount and they have gone to the DRT. In 1994 this loan was given in such a short period. Actually, the sanctioned amount was Rs. 50 crores. I would like to know whether the whole amount is still pending or only this amount is due by the Essar Power Ltd. I would like to know whether it is Rs. 11 crores or Rs. 40 crores or whether no balance is due. I would like to know what the real position is, if the hon. Minister can tell us.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in 1994, the amount sanctioned was Rs. 50 crores. The loan was disbursed in December, 1994. In June, 1995, an amount of Rs. 27.3 crores was to be paid by the company. Out of that, an amount of Rs. 25 crores was the principal. The Bank permitted time up to 3-9-1996. In May, 1997, the company agreed to pay the outstanding balance in four instalments. The company paid only two instalments. A suit was filed for Rs. 17.7 crores on 21st August, 1999. After filing of the suit, as you have mentioned, an amount of Rs. 6 crores was paid. After 25th April, just before this one, the company paid an additional amount of Rs. 1 crores. The balance outstanding is Rs. 12.23 crores. The Bank has recovered interest up to 31-3-2000 at the rate of 15 per cent usual interest plus 2 per cent penal interest.

As regards the first part of the question, whether it is a small amount or a large amount, the Bank should calculate its balance, as far as its profit and loss

accounts are concerned. So, it is very difficult to define the large and small amounts.

Propagation of Satriya Dance and Music

*505. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the origin and status of Satriya Dance as a component of Indian Classical Art forms;

(b) the steps initiated by Government to promote Satriya Dance and Music of Assam and future plans, if any, on research and training;

(c) the details of the programme finalised including publication of photo illustrations etc. by the Centre for Cultural Resources and Training for propagation of Satriya Dance and Music; and

(d) the action initiated for adequate exposure of this dance form through various performances in India and abroad?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) According to scholars the Satriya Dance originated towards the end of the 15th or early 16th century. The dance and music forms of Satriya constitute an important segment of the performing arts heritage of our country.

(b) The Sangeet Natak Akademi has taken steps to promote and preserve Satriya Dance through financial grants, audio/video documentation of Satriya Dance and allied forms, sponsoring performances, promoting interaction between Satriya artistes and masters of other dance traditions and grant of awards and fellowships.

(c) The Centre for Cultural Resources and Training has produced a documentary film on Satriya Dance and has also prepared colour slides and photographs.

(d) From time to time the Sangeet Natak Akademi has sponsored performances of Satriya Dance in their festivals and events held within India. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations had sponsored a performance of Satriya Dance in USA in 1998.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the reply of the hon. Minister is indicative of the fact that due justice was not extended to this very old traditional classical dance of Assam, i.e. the Satriya Dance. The origin of